

New Operation Assigned to Joliet Arsenal

**250 Administrative,
Clerical Workers
To Be Employed**

A new operation involving about 250 more administrative and clerical workers is being added to the present mission of the Ordnance Ammunition Center here, it was made known today by Brig. Gen. W. E. Laidlaw, OAC commander.

The local Center has been designated by the Army Ordnance Corps as the new headquarters of the National Stock Control and Maintenance Point for Ammunition. For the past several years, this office has been located at Raritan Arsenal, another Ordnance Corps installation, near New Brunswick, N. J.

STARTING AUG. 1, all of the 250 government employees now connected with this operation who wish to move will be transferred to Joliet.

Those who decide not to come here will be replaced by Joliet-area residents to be hired locally.

Complete transfer of the operation will not be accomplished until next spring, since the work of the unit must be carried on continuously and the changeover therefore will be gradual.

A new division of the Ordnance Ammunition Center is being established to direct the additional function, Gen. Laidlaw stated. This division will continue the present work of the unit, which is to control and maintain all stocks of finished Army ammunition located in storage depots all over the country.

GEN LAIDLAW described the move as a part of the Ordnance Corps' long-range program to establish "commodity centers" in various parts of the country, with each center handling all aspects of a particular commodity, such as ammunition, tanks, vehicles, weapons, etc.

He said that locating the stock control and maintenance program at the Ordnance Ammunition Center was another step in the direction of centralizing all ammunition activities of the Ordnance Corps here, and would aid the nation's ammunition program by keeping the control and maintenance of finished ammunition stocks more closely related to the manufacturing program and to other ammunition activities.

THE ORDNANCE Ammunition Center has been located here, on the grounds of Joliet Arsenal, since 1946. It is the national business administration headquarters of the national ammunition production program of the Army Ordnance Corps. It regulates and supervises the operation of 23 ammunition installations in the United States (one of which is Joliet Arsenal), in addition to directing the procurement of ammunition parts from private firms thruout the country. About 900 Civil Service workers are presently employed at OAC.